



# State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

DIVISION OF STATE AND LOCAL FINANCE • MADISON, WI

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May 18, 2005

Dear Stakeholders:

The State and Local Finance Division (SLF) within the Department of Revenue is going to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Integrated Property Assessment System (IPAS) this week. A RFP is the formal process used by the state for procurement of services or products. The purpose of this letter is to give you an overview of the system and provide you with a channel for any questions or comments you may have.

Property assessment systems are implemented in various states and at multiple levels of government. The systems provide a platform that allows for sharing and analyzing of information by the various users of the data. Last fall SLF issued a Request for Information to learn about products that already exist and received responses from twelve vendors.

As IPAS is implemented, one of our goals is for local, county and state government to have the tools to enable working together in "win-win" property assessment operations. An example of how working together can benefit all is as follows:

The state and counties are currently working together to enable the Real Estate Transfer Return to be filed electronically. Electronic filed returns and scanned paper filed returns will populate one central sales database. This sales database will be accessible from the Internet to counties and local assessors. Over time, IPAS will be adding more valuable data to these sales, assessment data, parcel attributes, fielded sale information, etc. Data from counties, local assessors and the state will be necessary to populate the IPAS in order to provide a complete view of these sales. Counties, local assessors and SLF will have access to this data without duplicating efforts. This will further enhance good assessment practices and standards. It provides easier access to the data, increased cooperation and new interaction within county, local and state government. All parties can spend less time gathering data and more time analyzing it and putting it to use.

Local, county and state governments need to work together given the limited budget resources and the anticipated turnover in staff due to retirements. The example given above is just one example of how working together can lead to efficiencies.

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After the RFP is sent out, next steps will include a vendor conference, proposal review, vendor selection, and contracting. Our goal is to start working with the selected vendor in October 2005. This will be a multi-year project that will begin with SLF's manufacturing assessment process.

We will need your participation and feedback as we move forward with this project. There are many details and processes to work out, but together we can become more efficient and produce a better end product for the taxpayers of Wisconsin.

We will continue to speak at various stakeholder meetings and welcome your questions at any time. I will send out an update of our progress mid-summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jean L. Gerstner".

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